

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 /049 W
-----070806 111508Z /75
O 111408Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7941

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 BEIRUT 2660

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PERP, LE, US
SUBJ: LETTER FROM LEBANESE FRONT TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF A LETTER (IN ENGLISH)
FROM THE LEBANESE FRONT, DELIVERED TO THE EMBASSY MAY 11.

2. BEGIN QUOTE. "DEAR PRESIDENT CARTER: YOUR GRACIOUS
WORDS ABOUT LEBANON ON THE OCCASION OF THE PLANTING OF A
CEDAR OF LEBANON TREE, DONATED BY THE AMERICAN LEBANESE
LEAGUE, IN THE GARDENS OF THE WHITE HOUSE ON APRIL 28, 1978,
HAVE BEEN DEEPLY AND GRATEFULLY APPRECIATED BY THE PEOPLE
OF LEBANON.

"AFTER THREE YEARS OF THE MOST GRUELING ORDEAL INFLICTED
UPON OUR PEOPLE, DURING WHICH WE BECAME ACCUSTOMED TO BEING
ABANDONED TO OUR DISMAL FATE PRACTICALLY BY THE ENTIRE WORLD,
FOR SUCH WORDS OF EVIDENT SINCERITY AND SYMPATHY AND WARMTH
AND TENDERNESS TO COME FROM YOU AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED
STATES, LIFTED OUR HEARTS AND SERVED AS THE GREATEST BOOST
TO OUR MORALE THAT WE COULD HAVE EXPECTED.

"TO ASSOCIATE LEBANON, AS YOU DID MR. PRESIDENT, WITH
THE ETERNAL BEAUTY AND STRENGTH OF ITS 2500-YEAR OLD CEDARS;
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TO COMMENT ON "INDEPENDENT LEBANON AS A GOOD EXEMPLIFICATION
FOR DEMOCRACY IN THE FINEST ASPECTS OF THAT FORM OF GOV-
ERNMENT WHICH WE SHARE:" TO DECLARE THAT YOU "LOOK ON LEBANON
WITH A HEART FILLED WITH GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION, FRIEND-
SHIP, AND ALSO DEEP SORROW AND CONCERN," AND THAT YOU "KNOW
NO NATION THAT HAS IN RECENT MONTHS AND IN RECENT YEARS SUF-
FERED MORE IN AN UNWARRANTED, UNDESERVED WAY THAN HAS LEBANON

AND HER PEOPLE;" TO GO ON FURTHER TO SAY THAT "THE HEART AND THE CONCERN OF THE WORLD GO OUT TO THE PEOPLE OF LEBANON:" AND FINALLY TO SAY, "WE HOPE AND WE PRAY THAT SOON PEACE CAN COME TO THAT FINE AND NOBLE AND BELEAGUERED AND SUFFERING LAND AND THAT THE BRAVE PEOPLE THERE WHO HAVE SET AN EXAMPLE FOR PROGRESS IN THE MIDDLE EAST CAN HAVE PEACE RESTORED TO THEIR COUNTRY: "ALL THESE KIND AND WARMHEARTED WORDS CHEERED US NO END IN OUR TRIBULATION.

"WHAT IS AT STAKE TODAY IS WHETHER OUR GENUINE DEMOCRACY AND OUR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS CAN SURVIVE. HISTORY MAY COME TO THE CONCLUSION FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW THAT ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED RECENTLY, ALL THAT IS HAPPENING TODAY, AND ALL THAT WILL CONTINUE TO HAPPEN IN LEBANON IN THE FOURTH QUARTER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, REVOLVED, BEYOND ALL THE ACCIDENTS AND ALL THE INCIDENTAL DETAILS WHICH PEOPLE TALK ABOUT TODAY, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS PRECISELY AROUND THE FATE OF THIS DEMOCRACY AND THESE FREEDOMS. WE ARE RESOLVED TO DEFEND OUR HERITAGE AND OUR FREEDOMS TO THE LAST BEAT OF OUR HEART AND THE LAST DROP OF OUR BLOOD. WE TRUST YOU WILL UNDERSTAND AND SUPPORT OUR RESOLVE, ESPECIALLY AS THE UNITED STATES IS THE WORLD CHAMPION OF DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS.

"LEBANON IS THE BEARER OF A GREAT CAUSE WORTHY OF BEING PROCLAIMED AND DEFENDED. LEBANON IN ALL ITS HISTORY NEVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ATTACKED OR CONSPIRED AGAINST ANY PEOPLE OR COUNTRY, AND NEVER HARMED ANYBODY. ON THE CONTRARY, WHERE WAS, AND WHERE IS TODAY, A COUNTRY OF THE SIZE OF LEBANON WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO ITSELF AND TO OTHERS, IN ITS IMMEDIATE ENVIRONMENT AND IN THE WORLD, AS MUCH AS LEBANON CONTRIBUTED TO ITSELF, TO THE ARAB WORLD AND TO THE MIDDLE EAST, TECHNICALLY, ECONOMICALLY, SCIENTIFICALLY, INTELLECTUALLY, CULTURALLY, AND IN TERMS OF HUMAN VALUES, IN ALL THE ENDEAVORS OF CIVILIZATION? THIS EXUBERANCE OF GIVING WAS POSSIBLE ONLY BECAUSE LEBANON ENJOYED A DISTINCTIVE IDENTITY OF ITS OWN, BASED ON THE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS OF MAN, AND IT IS PRECISELY THIS IDENTITY AND THESE FREEDOMS WHICH ARE TODAY AT STAKE.

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
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"LEBANON SHARES THE SAME IDEALS OF FREEDOM AND
JUMAN DIGNITY WHICH YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, CLING TO IN
THE UNITED STATES. AND AS YOU SAID IN YOUR STATEMENT,
THE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO PEOPLES AND GOVERN-
MENTS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN RELATIONS OF FRIENDSHIP AND
COOPERATION. MOREOVER, AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC, EDUCATIONAL,
CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN INSTIAUTIONS, AS WELL AS
AMERICAN BANKS AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISES, FLOURISHED
MORE SECURELY IN THE WELL-DISPOSED SOIL OF LEBANON THAN
THEY DID IN THE SOIL OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY IN THE
MIDDLE EAST. FINALLY, THERE ARE TODAY MORE THAN ONE
MILLION AMERICANS OF LEBANESE ORIGIN WHO CONTRIBUTED TO
THE DEVELOPMENT OF AMERICAN CIVILIZATION, BOTH ECONOMICALLY
AND CULTURALLY, AND MANY OF THEM FOUGHT, AND SOME DIED,
FOR THE DEFENSE OF AMERICA AND HER VALUES.

".FOR THESE REASONS, AND FOR OTHERS, LEBANON
CONSTITUTES A UNIQUE ENTITY, NOT ONLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST,
BUT IN THE WHOLE OF ASIA AND AFRICA. WE BELIEVE THAT
AN ENTITY, LIKE LEBANON, WHICH HAS HEROICALLY MANAGED
TO PRESERVE ITSELF ALL THESE CENTRIES, IS NOT AT ALL
INEVITABLY DOOMED TODAY TO DESTRUCTION, AS THE CYNICS
AND DEFEATISTS SUPPOSE, AND AS THE COVETOUS IMAGINE; NOR
THAT, AS A RESULT, LEBANON'S FREE SOCIETY AND ITS
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IMMENSE CONTRIBUTIONS ARE GOING TO DISAPPEAR. IF,
GOD, FORBID, THIS DOOM AND THIS DISAPPEARANCE ARE GOING
TO BE BROUGHT ABOUT BY HUMAN FOLLY AND SHORTSIGHTEDNESS,
THE LOSER IS NOT GOING TO BE LEBANON ALONE, BUT THE
WHOLE CAUSE OF FREEDOM, MAN, EQUILIBRIUM AND PEACE, IN
THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN AND IN THE WORLD.

"ALL THIS IS PART OF WHAT WE MEAN WHEN WE SAY THAT
FREE LEBANON IS THE BEARER OF A GREAT CAUSE WORTHY OF

BEING ARTICULATED, PROCLAIMED, UNDERSTOOD, VALUED AND DEFENDED.

" WE ASK YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND THE GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND OUR CAUSE AT ITS DEEPEST LEVEL AND TO COME TO OUR HELP IN THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY.

"W TRUST YOUR BIG HEART AND YOUR ESSENTIAL GOODNESS AND NOBILITY.

"AND IN CONCLUSION, WE REITERATE OUR GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION FOR ALL THAT YOU WERE GOOD ENOUGH TO SAY ABOUT LEBANON." END QUOTE

3. LETTER IS SIGNED BY CAMILLE CHAMOUN (AS LEBANESE FRONT PRESIDENT), PIERRE GEMAYEL, CHARLES MALIK, JAWAD BOULOS, FOUAD BOUSTANI AND EDWARD HONEIN.

4. LETTER WAS REFERRED TO, BUT NOT PUBLISHED, IN MAY 11 LE REVEIL. FRONT PLANS TO RELEASE TEXT TO PRESS MAY 11.

5. COMMENT: ONE POINT OF INTEREST IS THAT LETTER IS NOT SIGNED BY FORMER PRESIDENT SULEIMAN FRANGIEH, WHO OF LATE HAS BEEN BOYCOTTING LEBANESE FRONT PROCEEDINGS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(FOURTH PALADIN OF THE FRONT, PERE SHARBEL KASSIS, WHOSE NAME IS ALSO MISSING, IS IN AUSTRALIA.) WE BELIEVE THIS LETTER IS PARTLY EXPLAINABLE IN TERMS OF LEBANESE DOMESTIC POLITICS. PRESIDENT CARTER'S WARM WORDS ON APRIL 28 GAVE LEBANESE FRONT LEADERS AN OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE THEMSELVES AS CHAMPIONS OF LEBANON'S SPECIAL POSITION AND ROLE IN THE WORLD.

6. ORIGINAL BEING POUCHED TO NEA/ARN. WE RECOMMEND STRICTLY PRO FORMA REPLY IN DUE COURSE.

DECON 12/31/78.
LANE

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Message Attributes

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